delays, the UTI normally informs the investors through advertisements in all leading newspapers about the probable date by which the despatch is likely to be completed. With a view to improving investors service, several steps such as, rapid inhouse computerisation, operation of the schemes through registrars larger delegation of powers for faster disposal of ceses and streamlining of systems and procedures have been undertaken by the UTI.

Value of Rupee in comparison to Consumer Price Index

1203. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the value of Rupee as reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index as on January 1, April 1, and July 1, 1992 with 1960 as base year; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent its further decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The value of rupee measured as reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with base 1960 was 9 paise in January, April and May, 1992 (latest available).

(b) The steps taken by the Government to prevent further decline in the value of rupee include measures such as massive reduction in fiscal deficit, regulated growth of money supply and credit, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, including revamping of the PDS and imports of eseential commodities to ensure normal availability of these commodities.

Impact of Liberalisation of Share Prices

1204. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurt in share prices of various companies in the wake of so-called economic reforms and liberalisation of exports and imports which was interpreted to be a proof of the strength of the reforms, has been at the root of the security scam; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to scrap the reforms and initiate widespread discussion to restore health to economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Prices of shares are determined by a variety of factors, including fundamental and technical. It is not correct to perceive libaralisations in economic policies as a cause of malpractices in trading in securities.

Limit on repatriation by multinational companies

1205. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit on foreign multinational companies for sending their profit out of the country;

(b) whether clearance of Government of India is necessary in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the profits repatriated by the top ten multinational companies during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) According to the details furnished by the Reserve Bank of India in respect of FERA companies, profits/dividends repatriated by top ten companies in the last five years on the basis of profits repatriated by them in 1990-91 is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 26).

Relaxation of Tourist Baggage Rules

1206. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs Department has recently, relaxed and simplified the tourist baggage rules; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tourist Baggage Rules, 1978 have been amended with effect from 19-06-1992 so as to permit the import of Video Camera/Camcorder, Colour Television (not exceeding 15 c.m. in size), Compact Disc Player, Laptop Computer and electronic diary also temporarily without payment of duty provided that these items are for the personal use of the tourist and are re-exported by him on his leaving India for a foreign destination.

Transfer of SC/ST Officers in Reserve Bank of India

1207. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some SC/ST grade 'A' Staff Officers were, recently, transferred from Chandigarh to Calcutta branch of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether the tenure fixed by Reserve Bank of India for transfers have not been adhered in these transfers;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that only one Scheduled Caste Staff Officer Grade 'A' has been transferred from Chandigarh to Calcutta in May 1992 and in his case tenure fixed for transfer of such officers has been adhered to. The officer had filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. The Court directed the Bank to take a decision on his representation before implementing the transfer order and disposed of the petition. Accordingly, the Bank examined his representation and did not accede to his request to stay the transfer. The officer again brought a stay order from the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh which was subsequently got vacated by the Bank. The petition is, however, still pending and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Misuse of Gold allotted to Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers

1208. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of gold allotted to various ayurvedic medicine manufacturers during the past three years;

(b) what is the firm-wise break-up thereof;

(c) whether Government have been receiving complaints of this controlled price gold being misused and sold in the black market;

(d) if so, what action has been initiated against the erring firms; and